DOC/SER

Secret

(b)(3)

BRIEF
#175-74

Secret

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: OCT 2001

OUTGOING MESSAGE

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SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY

AGE	GDI	AGP	TOR	TPE	MRO	SCI
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CLASSIFICATION

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EAST ASIA BRIEF 175-74.4

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OUTGOING MESSAGE

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MESSAGE HANDLING GROUP SITE MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

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2. LAOS: THE COMMUNISTS RELEASED 38 ADDITIONAL CAPTIVES ON NOVEMBER 7, THUS COMPLETING THE FIFTH AND FINAL PHASE OF THE PRISONER EXCHANGE AGREEMENT CALLED FOR BY THE LAO ACCORDS OF [redacted]1973.4

ALL OF THE PRISONERS INVOLVED IN THE CLOSING

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SWAP WERE LAO. THEY WERE SET FREE AT THE VILLAGE OF PAK OU, NORTHEAST OF THE ROYAL CAPITAL OF LUANG PRABANG. THESE RELEASES RAISE THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PRISONERS REPATRIATED BY THE LAO COMMUNISTS TO 138 LAO, 214 THAI, AND 1 AMERICAN--CIVILIAN CONTRACT PILOT EMMET KAY. LEFT UNCERTAIN, HOWEVER, IS THE FATE OF MORE THAN 400 ADDITIONAL THAIS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN INCARCERATED BY THE PATHET LAO.4

THE NON-COMMUNIST SIDE RELEASED ALL OF ITS CAPTIVES--173 NORTH VIETNAMESE AND 7 LAO--DURING THE INITIAL EXCHANGE ON THE PLAINE DES JARRES IN NORTHERN LAOS ON SEPTEMBER 19.4

THE PRISONER EXCHANGES WERE CONDUCTED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE COALITION GOVERNMENT'S JOINT CENTRAL COMMISSION TO IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT. THE COMMISSION MAY NOW BE PREPARED TO DEAL WITH A NUMBER OF OTHER HIGH PRIORITY TASKS ASSIGNED TO IT BY THE 1[redacted]973 ACCORDS.4

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■■THE SEARCH FOR PERSONNEL MISSING IN ACTION;

■■THE RESETTLEMENT OF REFUGEES;

■■THE REOPENING OF ROADS BETWEEN THE TWO ZONES;

■■THE DEMARCATION OF CEASE-FIRE BOUNDARY LINES BETWEEN THE TWO ZONES.

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OUTGOING MESSAGE

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